

# Radon and Cancer in Nebraska



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Radon is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas that is naturally present in soil. People are exposed to radon in the air. Long-term, radon can cause lung cancer by damaging the cells that line the lungs. For a more complete picture of how radon is connected to cancer, see the [National Cancer Institute Fact Sheet on Radon](#).



Nebraska is considered to have relatively high levels of radon in the soil. Radon can enter homes through cracks in the walls or floors and collect in areas of the house that lack sufficient ventilation. For a snapshot of average radon concentrations by county in Nebraska, please see [this map](#). The three categories show the levels of radon that are likely to be found in homes in each area.



Because of these higher levels, it is important for Nebraskans to be aware of how to test for and remove radon from their homes. The Nebraska Radon Program recommends all homes be tested for radon, as testing is the only way to know the radon level in your home. Testing your home for radon is easy and inexpensive. There are effective ways to reduce radon levels in your home if they are elevated. New homes can also be built with radon resistant features during construction, called radon resistant new construction (RRNC).

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The Nebraska Radon Program offers a [comprehensive resource page](#) for home testing and removal.

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For more information on the link between radon and lung cancer, check out the [American Cancer Society Fact Sheet on Radon](#).

**Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC)** is a process through which communities and partner organizations pool resources to reduce the burden of cancer. These combined efforts help to

- Reduce cancer risk
- Find cancers earlier
- Improve treatments
- Increase the number of people who survive cancer
- Improve quality of life for cancer survivors

CDC started the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) to help states, tribes, U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands, and territories form or support existing coalitions to fight cancer. These coalitions use data to determine the greatest cancer-related needs in their area, and develop and carry out cancer plans to meet those needs. The Nebraska won this grant in 2001. NE CCCP is housed in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Health promotion Unit.

## **Nebraska State Cancer Plan**

NE CCCP and our partners Nebraska Cancer Coalition (NC2) are working together to revise our state cancer plan in 2015. State cancer plans identify how a coalition of stakeholder organizations address cancer burden as a significant public health challenge. They are data-driven, evidence-based blueprints for action. This plan will cover five years. State cancer plans guide cancer control program activities. They help us (NE CCCP) win renewed funding from the CDC, and assist NC2 in winning grants and contracts. You can read more about state cancer plans at [http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp/ccc\\_plans.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp/ccc_plans.htm).

Look for our revised plan in Summer of 2016!

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